THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. In line with the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission's (USCPSC) action, the health protection branch (HPB) of Health Canada has warned Canadian consumers not to wear 4 brands of rayon and rayon made Indian skirts as samples of these 4 brands did not meet the flammability requirements laid downs in the Hazardous Products Act of Canada.

(b) and (c) A flammability Testing and Certification Programme for such skirts has since been introduced for Canada and all such skirts are now being exported to Canada, only after they have been tested in notified laboratories and have been found to comply with the flammability standards of Canada. A similar programme had earlier been introduced for the U.S.A. in view of the findings of the USCPSC, in regard to the flammability of sheer rayon chiffon skirts being exported to the U.S.A. from India.

Garment Export Entitlement Policy

1065. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delay in announcing long term Garments Export Entitlement Policy, 1994 is affecting export of silk unembroidered garments; and

(b) if so; what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILE (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) There was no delay in announceing the Long Term Garment Export Entitlement Policy (1994-96).

(b) Does not arise.

Sick NTC mills in West Bengal

1066. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NTC mills declared sick in West Bengal so far; and

(b) what measures are being contemplated by Government for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) NTC (WBABO) Ltd., Calcutta has under it 12 mills in West Bengal . NTC (WBABO) Ltd. has been declared as a 'sick industrial Company' by the BIFR.

The Textile Research Associations have prepared plan for the Modernisation of the NTC mills, including the mills of NTC (WBAB & O) Ltd. A Turn Around Plan for the NTC is being considered but no decision has been taken by Government so far. Any revival plan will also require the approval of the Board for Financial and Industrial Reconstruction before it is implemented.

Export of Woollen Garments

1067. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which India has been exporting woollens;

(b) whether Indian woollen garments have great demand in West Europe, North America and Scandinavian countries; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase the export of woollen garments to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) India has been exporting woollen garments and knitwear mainly to the European Union, the United States, the C.I.S., Canada, Switzerland, Austria, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Poland the U.A.E., Sweden Kuwait, Norway, Argentina, Mexico etc.

(b) Yes, Sir. Indian woollen garments are in good demand in West Europe, North America and Scandinavian countries.

(c) In order to step up exports of garments, including woollen garments, Government have taken a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangments for duty-free import of raw materials for export production ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Export of Indian-Made Skirts to USA

1068. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the U.S. have evolved a formula which may ultimately pave the way for lifting the ban, imposed last month, on the sale of Indian-made ghagra-skirt in America, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian exporters would subject their skirts to a flammable test. and the US would issue a Press release announcing the limited nature of the ban order, if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is amount of loss incurred by Indian exporters of skirts in terms of dollars since the imposition of the ban; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government vis-a-vis Indian exporters and the U.S. buyers to ensure increase of exports of this product ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) had announced on August 12, 1994 the stop sale and recall of sheer rayon chiffon skirts manufactured in India on the ground that they were dangerously flammable. The sheer rayon chiffon skirts with a gauze lining. which were the subject of the notice, constructed a very small percentage of the total exports of skirts from India. Government had sent an export's team to the USA in the last week of August 1994, to discuss this issue with the US authorities.

A flammability Testing and Certification Programme for sheer rayon chiffon skirts has since been introduced and all such skirts are now being exported to the US only after they have been tested in notified laboratories and have been found to comply with the US flammability standards. The flammability issue has been resolved to mutual satisfaction.

Setting up of Cooperative Spinning Mills in Gujarat

1069. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of Government for issuing fresh industrial liecnnces to cooperative spinning sector for setting up cooperative spinning units;

(b) whether there is any proposal received from Gujarat for granting such licences to cooperative spinning